

# Wave

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Winter of 2005-2006 . . .

## Natural Gas Prices Will Increase

**A**cross the United States, natural gas customers could face significantly higher heating bills this winter. The U.S. Department of Energy reported that, nationwide, an average natural gas residential customer could expect to pay about 50 percent more for natural gas this winter than last winter. This is due in part to the impact of Hurricane Katrina on natural gas production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

The forecast for Long Beach Energy customers is slightly more optimistic. Long Beach and Signal Hill gas bills are expected to increase about 34 percent this winter. Last winter, the average Long Beach Energy residential customer paid \$63 for their monthly gas bill. This winter, the average monthly bill is expected to be closer to \$84. As has been the case for the past few years, the average residential gas bill in Long Beach and Signal Hill is expected to remain at or below gas bills of other residential customers throughout Southern California.

Weather will continue to be the number one factor in determining how much customers will pay for heating. Although customers can-

not control the weather, they can help manage their energy costs through conservation. The efficient use of energy can make homes more comfortable and will save money over time, while helping to conserve the nation's resources.

## Long Beach ENERGY

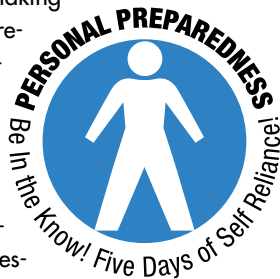
The City's Level Pay Plan can also help residents and most business owners manage high winter gas bills. With the Level Pay Plan, the monthly bill amount is determined by averaging the previous 12 months of bills. This generally results in lower bill payments during winter months by spreading the higher winter costs over the entire year. To apply, call 570.5700.

Visit the LBE website at [www.LBEnergy.org](http://www.LBEnergy.org) for energy saving tips and ideas. Low income, low-income senior, and disabled utility assistance program information is also available on the website or by calling 570.2068. Find more energy efficiency tips and information at the following websites: [www.FlexYourPower.com](http://www.FlexYourPower.com), [www.Energy.ca.gov](http://www.Energy.ca.gov), and [www.SCE.com](http://www.SCE.com). To turn on pilot lights, call 570.5700.

## Emergency Preparedness

**L**ong Beach residents are encouraged to prepare for five days of self reliance in the event of a citywide disaster. Prepare for any emergency by becoming informed and taking action to become self-reliant. Are you prepared? Make an Emergency Preparedness Plan and Build an Emergency Preparedness Kit. For easy, step-by-step guides, visit [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov).

The Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provides residents with disaster preparedness training to assist themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a city wide disaster. For more information, call 570.LBFD or visit [www.longbeach.gov/fire](http://www.longbeach.gov/fire).



## IN THE NEWS

### 9th Annual Veterans Day Parade

Honor America's Veterans - The 9th Annual Veteran's Day Parade is on November 5. Call 570.6137 or visit [www.veteransdayparade.com](http://www.veteransdayparade.com) for details.

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Be Prepared . . .

# Winter Rains Could Cause Flooding

In the event of a major rainstorm, some areas of Long Beach could become flooded.

## Flood Warning System

Long Beach has developed a flood warning system designed to provide at least one hour of advance warning of a flood hazard. Flood watches (when conditions are conducive to flooding) and flood warnings (when flooding is imminent) will be issued via local cable TV Channel 8, network, radio and mobile public address capabilities of police cars and helicopters. Critical facilities will receive notification by telephone.

## Flood Safety

There are several actions residents of flood hazard areas can take to decrease the potential of injury due to flooding:

- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flooding or when advised to do so by police or fire officials.
- Don't try to cross a flowing stream when water is above your knees.
- Keep children away from flood waters such as rivers, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
- If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Turn off all electric circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect the switch. If this is not possible, turn off or disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Shut off the water service and gas valves in your home.

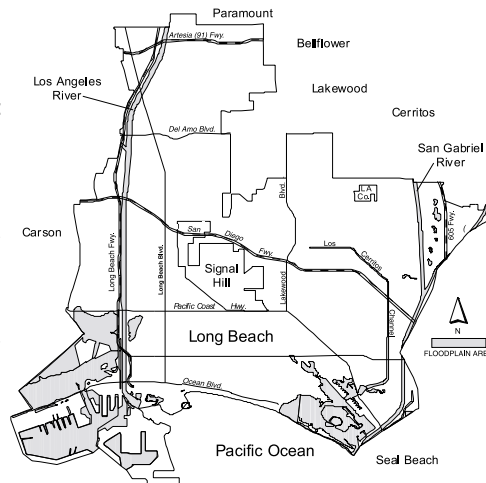
## Property Protection in Advance

Here's what you can do to avoid damage:

- If time permits, move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your home.
- Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters and washers/dryers.
- Install basement floor drains, and interior and exterior backwater valves; install interior floodwalls around utilities.
- Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing.

■ Sandbag information can be obtained by calling the Emergency Preparedness Hotline 570.5252.

- References on flood proofing or retro fitting are available at the Main Library, 101 Pacific Ave. Call 570.7500.
- To obtain a flood-proofing permit, call the Planning and Building Department at 570.6651.
- Always check with the Planning and Building Department before you build on, alter, re-grade or add fill on your property. If you see building or filling without a City permit sign posted, call 570.6651.



## Flood Hazard Areas

The accompanying map shows the 100-year floodplain in the shaded areas as it appears on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) adopted Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) now in effect. To find out for sure if your property is in the hazard area, call 570.6784 or visit the City's website at <http://cms.longbeach.gov/community/floodzonchange.htm>. Search the detailed maps which are on file at City Hall, Public Works-Technical Records, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., 10th floor, Long Beach.

Standard homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods. However, Long Beach is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, which allows Long Beach property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (a building or its contents) in Long Beach. Flood insurance is sometimes required by law, so call your insurance agent for details and rates.

The city has a complex system of storm drainage including streets, gutters, catch basins, underground pipes, ditches, streams and creeks, channels and rivers, and pump stations. The storm drainage system must be kept clear of debris to ensure that it works efficiently. A plugged drain could cause unnecessary flooding when it rains. If you see someone dumping substances into storm drains, report it by calling 570.DUMP.

## IN THE NEWS

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### UPDATE - Airport Terminal Improvement Project

The City is finalizing the Airport Terminal Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and anticipates that the Draft EIR will be available for public comment no later than November. The Draft EIR document will be available for review online at the City's website, [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov), and the Airport's website, [www.lgb.org](http://www.lgb.org). It will also be available at the Main Library, 333 West Ocean Blvd.

Per EIR guidelines, the public comment period will last 45 days. During this time period, the Planning Commission, in a public workshop, will review the Draft EIR. In addition, a public meeting, where

Draft EIR information will be provided and public input sought, will be conducted. The Planning Commission will be asked to act on the final EIR in late February or early March 2006. Dates of all meetings will be widely advertised.

### Focus Group Meetings to End Homelessness

Through November, the City of Long Beach Community Partnership to End Homelessness is conducting a series of Focus Group Meetings. The community's input is vital to helping develop the City's strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. Visit [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov) for details.

This information is available in an alternate format by calling 570.6379.